

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed March 10, 2005, the Examiner rejected claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite (Office Action [hereinafter "OA"], paragraphs 4 and 5); rejected claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-17, and 29-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Capps (U.S. Patent No. 5,544,295) in view of Skarbo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,901) (OA, paragraph 6); and rejected claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Capps in view of Vora et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,623,652) (OA, paragraph 7). The Examiner also indicated that claims 6, 12, and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By this amendment, claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-17 and 29-35 have been canceled, and claims 6, 12, and 18 have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, all of the claims are allowable.

Since each of the claims is allowable, this case is prima facie in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request the timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for this application.

Applicants also request that the Examiner return an initialed Form PTO/SB/08 indicating consideration of the reference noted in the IDS of February 9, 2005.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 6, 12, and 18 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claims 6, 12, and 18 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

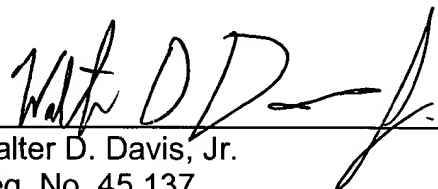
Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this Amendment, such extension is requested. If there are any other fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed herewith, including any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: June 9, 2005

By: 
Walter D. Davis, Jr.
Reg. No. 45,137